

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06213 041906Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-07 COME-00 SS-15

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O 041820Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6160

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EMIN, PFOR, PE, US

SUBJECT: MARCONA SHIPMENT STILL IN JEOPARDY

REF: STATE 182344

1. NOTE DELIVERED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL GARCIA BEDOYA EVENING AUGUST 1. AMBASSADOR SUBSEQUENTLY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION MATTER TO HIM AT ECUADOR NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, AND HE TOOK THE LINE THAT GOP/HIERROPERU HAD NEVER HAD INTENTION OF SEIZING SHIPMENT. ON AUGUST 2, EMBASSY LEARNED THAT "ELIZABETH LYKES" HAD BEEN CLEARED FOR MATARANI AND WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO STOP IN SAN JUAN. DEPARTURE OF VESSEL WAS DELAYED UNTIL AUGUST 4 TO PERMIT MARCONA CARGO PREVIOUSLY DESTINED FOR SAN JUAN TO BE SHIFTED.

2. HOWEVER, ON AUGUST 3, SITUATION AGAIN TOOK TURN FOR WORSE. COMPTON TELEPHONED A/DCM TO REPORT THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT GOP WOULD AGAIN MAKE AN EFFORT TO SEIZE THE SHIPMENT. EMBOFF TELEPHONED CAPTAIN TO WARN HIM AND LEARNED THAT SO FAR SHIPMENT HAD NOT BEEN DISTURBED. HOWEVER, CAPTAIN POINTED OUT THAT VESSEL MAY BE IN PERUVIAN WATERS FOR SOME DAYS YET AS ITS SCHEDULE CALLS FOR IT TO PUT INTO ILO AND THEN RETURN TO CALLAO AFTER CALLING AT MATARANI. EMBOFF ALSO CALLED SHIP'S AGENT MOISES WOLL, WHO CONFIRMED COMPTON'S REPORT. WOLL SAID

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PAGE 02 LIMA 06213 041906Z

HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTRY

AROUND NOON AUGUST 2, WHERE HE MET WITH GARCIA BEDOYA
AND TWO GOP LEGAL ADVISORS. LAWYERS QUESTIONED WOLL
ABOUT LOCATION OF ORIGINAL BILLS OF LADING. SUBSEQUENTLY,
COMPTON AGAIN CALLED A/DCM TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD
THAT GOP INTENDS TO DISCUSS MATTER AT MEETING MORNING OF
AUGUST 4 LOOKING TOWARD THE ISSUANCE OF LAW OR DECREE BY
VIRTUE OF WHICH HIERROPERU CAN TAKE DELIVERY OF SHIPMENT.
GROUNDS WILL BE THAT INASMUCH AS MARCONA MINING PAID A
COMMISSION TO MARCONA CORPORATION FOR ACTING AS ITS PUR-
CHASING AGENT, SHIPMENT THEREFORE BELONGS TO HIERROPERU
AS SUCCESSOR CORPORATION TO MARCONA MINING BY VIRTUE OF
THIS COMMISSION. COMPTON CALLED AT EMBASSY MORNING
AUGUST 4 AND INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT IT IS HIS BELIEF
THAT SUPREME DECREE WILL BE ISSUED
TODAY.
DEAN

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